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Week of April 24, 2016

LIFE IN CHRIST

Life in Christ • Ephesians 3 • Message 3

Ephesians 3:1-13 (p. 815)

Paul started this section to talk about his prayer (see verse 14), but he gets distracted, and changes the topic. Why do you think he got distracted?

What observations do you have from this section?

What does it mean to you that you/we are part of God's eternal plan?

Paul's conclusion is that our participation in God's plan should give us confidence to approach God in prayer. What do you think about that?

Ephesians 3:14-21

What do you notice from this prayer?

There are two core things Paul prays for. In each, he prays for one thing that leads to another and eventually to the goal of his prayer. His first prayer starts with a request for the empowerment of the Spirit and leads to us having Christ dwell in our hearts. What do you think of the flow of thought there? How are those items related?

The second prayer item starts with a request that we have power together with other believers and ends with us being filled with the fullness of God. What do you think of that flow of thought? How are those items related?

It seems as if both prayers end with us being "filled" with God somehow, but one prayer starts with the Spirit, and the other starts with the family of believers. It seems like Paul is equally concerned with us being connected to the Spirit and also us being connected to each other. What do you think about that?

Take it Home

This is a prayer that Paul prays in response to his understanding of all that God has done for us and all that He plans to do in and through us. In other words, Paul prays this prayer with confidence that it is in God's will to make it happen. If this prayer were totally true for you, what difference would it make in your life?

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